

# Eau-Claire Current May 14, 2015

#### **VISION**

Eau Claire will be a healthy, vibrant, and productive community of exceptional natural beauty.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

It is our mission
to provide
for the common good
and
deliver services
essential for
a safe, sustainable,
and engaged
community.

#### Check out these Links:

**City Website** 

**Contact Us** 

**City Council Members** 

**City Calendar** 

Citizen Resource Bank

<u>Form</u>

**E-Notifications** 

**Social Media Links** 

# **City Manager**

## **Applicants Sought for City Council Vacancy**

The Eau Claire City Council is accepting applications from residents of Aldermanic District 1 to fill the vacant District 1 City Council seat, for a term beginning June 22, 2015 and running through April 19, 2016. Interested residents should submit a letter to the City Clerk containing the following information:

- Applicant's name and address.
- Telephone number and/or other method of contact.
- Brief statement, not exceeding one page, explaining why you want to represent District 1, and outlining experience related to the position such as past elected office, service on boards, commissions or committees, participation in decision-making processes, business experience, and/or volunteer experience.

Letters must be received in the City Clerk's office no later than

# 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4.

The City Council will review the applications. All applicants will make a five-minute presentation at the Monday, June 8, City Council meeting. The Council will vote on the appointment at their Legislative Session on Tuesday, June 9.

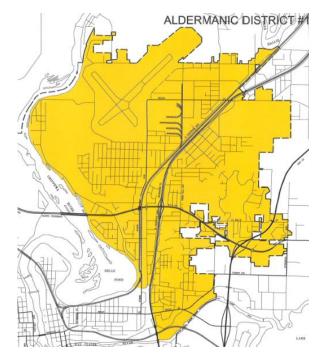
Letters can be submitted via the U.S. Postal Service or by e-mail.

### Postal address:

Eau Claire City Clerk 203 S. Farwell St. Eau Claire, WI 54701

#### E-mail address:

donna.austad@eauclairewi.gov



# **Community Development**

#### **Downtown Hotel's Renovation on Task**

Everything is running efficiently for the transformation of the former Ramada hotel on Barstow Street into The Lismore, according to Julia Johnson, Pablo Properties Partner.

"Construction is right on track in both the event halls and the hotel. There is an awesome buzz of activity throughout the property. After months of demo, dust and removal, the plans that have lived on paper are taking shape in physical form," Johnson said.



The halls, which will be used for an event center, featuring two 6,000 square foot rooms, will be completely finished by June. The mechanical, electrical and plumbing work has been completed and the developers are now in the process of getting new wall coverings.

"The design aesthetic is comfortable and classic with neutral colors, warm wood tones, clean lines and some refurbished original hardware. New spaces like main floor bathrooms and a catering kitchen are well underway and will be a great improvement in the

functionality of the event halls," she said.

As for the hotel and businesses to be located on its first floor, those will be finished later in the year.

"When the property was purchased, the renovation plans were not as extensive as what is being built now. As each space was explored, the need for replacement was apparent. The outcome is a brand new hotel, and that is something we are very proud of," she added.

Johnson said the former Ramada has basically been gutted down to its structure. If someone were to currently stand inside on the first floor, they would simply see exterior wall to exterior wall. The current exterior wall is framed and insulated, which Johnson said accounts for the current bright-yellow look outside. The yellow will soon be covered with a white moisture barrier and, by fall, will be finished with black metal panels.

Johnson added "everything has been running smoothly since construction has started. We are excited to provide a nice place to eat, stay and gather in Downtown Eau Claire."



#### **EMS Week**



May 17-23 is National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. This year's theme is "EMS Strong." Initially established by President Gerald Ford in 1974, this annual observance serves as an opportunity to recognize the value and accomplishments of emergency medical services providers. The EMS system is one that provides lifesaving care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and includes skilled dispatchers, first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, nurses, physicians, educators, and administrators. Access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury. Members of emergency medical services teams, both career and volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills.

Over the past couple weeks, Eau Claire Fire and Rescue personnel have been visiting area grade schools, providing EMS and water safety education to over 1,500 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

###



Library

Safe Spaces: Building Compassionate Communities for LGBTQ Youth in the Chippewa Valley Tuesday, May 19 | 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. *and repeated* at 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Join us for a community-building conversation addressing the needs of the Chippewa Valley's LGBTQ youth. Participants will have the opportunity to network, learn, and obtain tools to create inclusive spaces. Youth-serving professionals, area businesses, and interested community members are welcome!

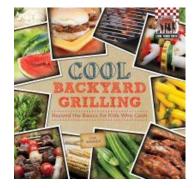
#### Children Discover Their Inner Super Hero @ the Library

Join the *Readers to the Rescue* with the Summer Library Program. All ages from infants to teens can participate by registering for a reading folder June 2 through August 15. Read books and earn prizes along the way. Story times, science programs, and book discussions will also be offered. Check out the current <u>library newsletter</u> for more information, and to get your free bus pass to the library!

#### **Escape the Ordinary: Adult Summer Reading Program**

June 1 – August 15

Registration begins June 1 for this year's adult summer reading program! For every three books read, you'll get a chance to win a free book or a small prize. Completed cards will be entered into the end of the summer drawing. New this summer will be a monthly puzzle that participants can complete. Each completed puzzle will be eligible for a monthly prize drawing. Join summer reading and Escape the Ordinary! Online registration also opens June 1: <a href="https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events">www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events</a>.



#### **Get Your Grill On**

Whether you are an undisputed grill master, or barely know the difference between basting and marinating, there is something for you in our collection. Check out our books on <u>barbeque</u>, <u>vegan</u>, and even <u>kid-friendly</u> recipes. Want more ideas? Search the <u>online catalog</u>, or ask a librarian.

#### **Find Your Ticket to Adventure**

Looking for something to do without breaking the bank? Our *Ticket to Adventure* program offers complimentary tickets for several cultural opportunities in the Eau Claire area, including Beaver Creek Reserve, Chippewa Valley Museum, Paul Bunyan Logging Camp, The Master Singers, The Children's Museum, and the Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild! Stop by the Information and Reference desk to see what is available. Stop by Information & Reference to learn more about Ticket to Adventure.

For information about library services, programs and events, visit the library online at <a href="https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info">www.ecpubliclibrary.info</a>, stop at Information & Reference on your next visit to the library, e-mail the library at <a href="mailto:librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us">librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us</a>, or call 715-839-5004.

###

# Parks, Recreation & Forestry

#### Discount Tickets for Summer Attractions Available Through Parks and Recreation

Making summer plans? Avoid ticket lines and save money by purchasing your admission through Eau Claire Parks and Recreation's <u>discount ticket program</u>. Discounted tickets are available for:

- Milwaukee County Zoo
- Mt. Olympus Water and Theme Park
- Noah's Ark
- Pirates Cove Adventure Golf
- Six Flags Great America
- Valleyfair

Tickets are sold between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at the Recreation office, 915 Menomonie Street. For more information, call 715-839-5032.



#### **Volunteer Youth Coaches Needed**

Make a difference in the life of a child by becoming a <u>volunteer youth coach</u>. The Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department is recruiting volunteer coaches for

- T-ball
- Flag Football
- Soccer

Visit the City's employment website for an online application.

# Fairfax Pool Opens May 23

Fairfax Pool <u>opens</u> for its 25th season from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 23. Individuals and families can still purchase <u>discounted passes</u> on or before Friday, May 22. The pool is available for <u>group rentals</u> beginning Saturday, May 30. For more information, contact recreation staff at 715-839-5032.

#### Pickleball Clinic: June 1

You've heard the buzz, now try it for yourself. Pickleball has quickly become one of the most popular sports in Eau Claire, and the Parks and Recreation Department is offering an introductory clinic for adults. The two-day clinic runs from 6 to 7 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, starting June 1, at the recently-expanded courts at McDonough Park. Cost is \$6. Register online.

#### **Adult Sport Registration Deadline: June 3**

The deadline to register for adult summer sport leagues is Wednesday, June 3. Sports leagues still accepting registrations are:

- Cornhole (bean bags)
- Kickball
- Soccer
- Ultimate Frisbee



Registration forms and additional information are available online.

#### **Boulevard Clean-up: June 20**

Lend a hand, Eau Claire! Register yourself or your organization for the <u>"Hands On Eau Claire: Boulevard Clean-Up"</u> from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 20. Join other volunteers as you help beautify the main boulevards around Eau Claire, and then celebrate a job well done with a complimentary lunch. For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Teri-Gene Conlin at 715-839-5032.

###



#### **Special Events**

With spring finally here and the weather warming up, residents of Eau Claire will begin to see an increase in special events throughout the City and in the parks. With these events come large crowds, temporary street closures, music and a change from our "daily routine." More and more event coordinators are finding Eau Claire to be the perfect venue to hold special events, and Eau Claire will host a number of special events this year.

#### **Career Venture**

On Thursday, May 7, 2015, the Eau Claire Police Department participated in the Career Venture at the Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center. Over 2,000 area students attend the event, in which 63 exhibitors exposed them to potential future career options. The exhibitors are tasked with providing an interactive activity for the students. This year, the Eau Claire Police Department presented students with a tactical officer rescue scenario that concluded with treating a life-threatening gunshot wound with a tourniquet. This exhibit was awarded "Most Informative Exhibit" as voted on by the students in attendance.

#### **Public Works**



# Possible Summer Circulator Route in the Downtown Area

The Eau Claire Transit Commission is looking at service area additions for the downtown area during the summer. The Transit Commission is looking at a circulator route in the downtown area over the summer that will have a frequency of service of every 20 minutes.

We will be holding a PUBLIC HEARING for the possible service additions.

WHEN: May 20, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: City Hall: 203 S. Farwell Street, City Council Chambers.

Any citizen having questions or comments concerning this issue can contact Eau Claire Transit, 910 Forest Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703, (715) 839-5111, <a href="mailto:tom.wagener@eauclairewi.gov">tom.wagener@eauclairewi.gov</a>. We will take public comment in office up until 5:00 P.M. on May 20. The public is also able to address the Commission directly during the Public Hearing.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# City Council Meeting Summary – May 11 & 12, 2015

- The City Council conducted a public hearing related to a proposed ordinance rezoning property that is part of the West Riverside District Neighborhood Plan;
- Provided an opportunity for public discussion on the proposal to purchase the 1927 Steam Train Locomotive #2719 and sell to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum and public discussion of proposed ordinances amending the City Code of Ordinances to allow remote attendance by members at City Board, Committee and Commission meetings and at City Council meetings;
- Went into closed session to hear Grievance #2014-200 and
   2014-300 per the City's labor contract with Fire Fighters Local 487;
- Read proclamations of National Service Recognition Day,
   Emergency Medical Services Week, Historic Preservation Month,
   National Bike to Work Day and Wisconsin Bike Week;
- Granted new bartender licenses;
- Authorized the submission of an application to the Department of Natural Resources for a Stewardship Grant for the development of a multi-use trail between the Barstow Street Bridge and the Lake Street Bridge;
- Authorized special events including the St. Olaf Fun Fest 5K, the Eau Claire Patriotic Council Memorial Day Parade and Program, the Sounds Like Summer Concert Series, the Eau Claire Municipal Band Concerts, the Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society Sale, the Mehara Shrine Circus, the 2015 Juneteenth Celebration, and the RCU Charity Classic;
- Approved bids and proposals to Remodel the Upper Viewing Area at Hobbs Ice Center, the Water Treatment Plant Filter Rehabilitation and New Production Wells, and the Newell Park Basketball Court Rehabilitation;
- Authorized First Congregational to conduct the Historic Randall Park Neighborhood Carnival, the Chippewa Valley LGBT to conduct the Chippewa Valley PRIDE event, and Game Day Competitions LLC to conduct the Benchmark Brawl Eau Claire;
- Considered, but did not authorize, the purchase of the 1927 Steam Train Locomotive #2719 and then selling the locomotive to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum;
- Authorized an "Absence of Need" exemption for pedestrian accommodations on Short Street, from Wisconsin Hwy. 37 to the Chippewa River Bridge, and on Melby Street, from Victor Street to 115<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Granted a permanent encroachment to Parcel No. 09-0390 (97 W. Madison Street) for an
  existing building and declared a portion of 97 West Madison Street to be excess land and
  authorizing the sale;
- Authorized the City Manager to execute a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Eau Claire and Police Patrol Local 9;
- Extended the current health insurance plan with Group Health for one year;
- Approved the process to fill an existing District 1 aldermanic vacancy on the City Council;
- Considered, but did not amend, the City Code of Ordinances to allow remote attendance by members at City Board, Committee and Commission meetings and at City Council meetings;
- Considered, but did not amend, the City Code of Ordinances Section 9.32.030 entitled "Discharging Firearms."

